

Town of Westminster

MASSACHUSETTS 01473
FROM THE OFFICE OF THE
Open Space Committee
Phone: (978) 874-7414

Minutes of Meeting – December 12, 2022 – Rm 222

In attendance: Sue Millman, Marie Auger, Amy Tisdale

Absent: Isaiah Grigos, Heather Billings, Jodi Snyder,

Others: Tracy Murphy, Town Planner

Meeting called to order at 7:11pm

1. Approval of minutes: Motion made by M. Auger/A Tisdale to accept the minutes.
Discussion: None
The OSRP Committee voted 3-0-0 to approve the minutes.
2. Compile Information on gaps in existing trail systems and discuss the role of MRPC in creating maps.

Tracy Murphy confirmed that the town has not used any of the 8 hours allotted for GIS work. The TA will send a letter to Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) authorizing the OSC to use the hours for the map project.

The first item up for discussion was the Roper Rd access to the open space off of Old Ashburnham Turnpike Rd. The status of Old Ashburnham Turnpike Rd is still unknown. The status determines if the public has a right to utilize the way from Roper Rd to access the Open Space parcels owned by the town. If access is denied, there is an opportunity to access the open space through the Meadows at West Hill.

A. Tisdale spoke of the application "Strava(?)" that I. Grigos uses and feels that it is user friendly. However, S. Milman pointed out that the application used to map would be best if it interfaced with Mr. Mapper as that is the program that MRPC uses. A Tisdale will work with Sheri Bean to assure that the application used will interface with Mr. Mapper.

The OSC looked over the large Trails inventory map prepared by MRPC, discussed connections and what to do where spurs dead end. The OSC agreed that the inventory map needs to be correct and to eliminate all spurs that dead end. Hager Park was discussed. The OSC thought that it would be a good idea to contact Chris Mossman to decide what trails need to be added. It was discussed that any spurs that are a dead end should be eliminated from that park as well. M. Auger spoke of the perimeter trail around Hager Park that can be complete once the footbridge is repaired.

The Committee ultimately called out trails within Hager Park, Crocker Pond, Oakmont trails (Whitman Reservoir) and Muddy Pond as areas to highlight on an interactive map or create close up maps. T.

Murphy will reach out to MRPC to discuss how this can come to fruition. There was also discussion around creating a QR code at the trailhead or Parking areas of the specific area. T. Murphy presented a list of Open Space Cluster developments for the OSC to determine if the public has access to the open space in each development. The OSC set this issue aside for the time being.

3. Scenic Road Bylaw Information: The OSC passed over this agenda item.

For next meeting: T. Murphy will ask the Town Clerk what the status is of Old Ashburnham Turnpike Rd, work with MRPC to see if call outs of close ups can be included on the trail inventory map or as an interactive layer on Mr. Mapper and to get a list of all property currently in 61B.

- 4: Next Meeting: Tuesday January 17, 2023 at 7:00 PM in room 222.

- 5: Motion to adjourn, A. Tisdale/M. Auger.
Meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy Murphy
Town Planner